1	2	3
18.	Begusarai	2
19.	Bhagalpur	2
20.	Pakaur	*
21.	Munghyr	2
22.	Banka	1
23.	Jaurni	*
24.	Lakhisarai	*
25.	Sahibganj	1
26.	Dumka	*
27.	Godda	1
28.	B. Deoghar	1
29.	Nalanda	1
30.	Dhanbad	3
31.	Bokaro Steel City	2
32.	Giridih	1
33.	Kodarma	*
34.	Ranchi	5 SFMS Ports, 15 EKB, 6 FT
35.	Lehardaga	1
36.	Gumla	1
37.	Hazaribagh	1
38.	Palamau	1
39.	Garhwa	*
40.	Chapra	2 SFMS Ports, 3 EKB, 2 FT
41.	Chatra	*
42.	East Singhbhum	2
43.	West Singhbhum	*
44.	East Champaran	1 SFMS Ports, EKB, 1 FT
45.	West Champaran	2
46.	Muzaffarpur	2 SFMS Ports, 2 EKB, 5 FT
47.	Samastipur	1
48.	Vaishali	1
49.	Madhubani	1
50.	Darbhanga	*
51.	Siwan	1
52.	Gopalganj	1
53.	Sitamarhi	1

* Ports shall be provided by the end of 1997-98
FT = Formatted Terminal
EKB = Electronic.

Stoppage of Shipra Express

2897. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Shipra Express" stops at several small stations on Beena-Katni section;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the above train does not stop at "Ganjbasauda" railway station of the central railway; and

(c) the time by which the stoppage of train is likely to be provided at "Ganjbasauda" in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Express is stopping at Khurai, Saugor and Damoh on Bina-Katni section.

(b) Stoppage of 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Express at Ganj-Basoda station has been examined but not found commercially justified.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Air Links to Bhopal

2898. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which air-bus service is likely to be started linking Bhopal to other cities in India keeping in view its capability of landing the air bus; and

(b) the present air-services catering to the needs of Bhopal and the additional air links likely to be introduced during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to start airbus services to Bhopal.

(b) Alliance Air operates 3 days a week service each on the sectors Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back and Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back. Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air, however, do not have immediate plans to introduce more services to/from Bhopal during the year 1997-98.

Promotion of Tea Tourism in Assam

2899. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam with regard to promotion of tea tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs during 1995-96 and Rs. 1.00 lakh during 1996-97 was sanctioned as Central Financial assistance for the Tea and Tourism Festival to the Government of Assam.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Darbhanga and Delhi/New Delhi

2900. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is no Superfast train from Darbhanga Junction to Delhi/ New Delhi Junction;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run a Superfast train on the said route;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government propose to modernise Darbhanga Railway Station;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be modernised;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have any proposal to further increase the quota of the station to accommodate more rail users from the station; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic has been provided at Darbhanga station. Therefore, no modernisation is proposed at present.

(g) and (h) Computerised reservation facility is available at Darbhanga linked to the main reservation system of Delhi. One terminal of the Calcutta reservation system is also available there. As such, it is not desirable to allot any separate quota to Darbhanga station.

Second Class Reserved Sleeper Coaches for Short Distance Travellers

2901. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have opened the second class reserved sleeper coaches for short distance travellers and declared it as an unreserved second class compartment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the matter of safety of passengers especially in the case of women travelling in these coaches from the incidents of hooliganism on trains; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken for the safety of passengers of reserved coaches from the short distance travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Keeping in view the requirement of short distance second class passengers travelling during day time, the Zonal Railways have already been empowered to declare, wherever it is feasible, sleeper class coaches as unreserved second class for specific sections of journey of the concerned train.

(b) and (c) Second class unreserved passengers are not permitted to travel is sleeper class coaches which are fully reserved. Hence, the safety of passengers of reserved coaches does not get affected.

Air Bus-320 Service between Delhi and Cochin

2902. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a new Air bus-320 service between Delhi and Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unindirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. A Committee was set up to assess whether airbus A-320 operations to/ from Cochin airport could be carried out safely. This Committee had representatives from Indian Airlines, DGCA, CTE Hyderabad and AAI. The Committee concluded that in view of the limited runway length, unindirectional operations weather conditions, Airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin can be permitted provided certain conditions are met. The matter has been taken up by this Ministry with Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Naval Authorities and Secretary, Transport Authorities, Kerala for providing requisite ground facilities at Cochin Airport.